

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Bromley 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS stretched their Isthmian League lead over nearest rivals, Sutton, to two points on Saturday—but looked less than championship material in the process.

Joint top strikers, Keith Searle and Tony Horseman, both added their 44th goals of the campaign, but it was a poor game in most respects.

Manager Brian Lee defied a crippling casualty list to assemble enough fit players for the match. Nonetheless, Bromley — only 21 goals in the competition to date — must have felt highly flattered by the Blues' cautious 4-3-3 approach.

If they were, it was small comfort. Inside four minutes Wycombe led through a Searle header.

Bromley were visibly bemused by the move, as John Hutchinson gave possession to Keith Blunt for a long, low-flying probe into the 'box'. Searle's up-and-under deceived goalkeeper Pullman completely.

Ninety minutes of ups and downs for Wycombe was typified by Searle's varying fortunes. After such a promising start, the next time he hit the spotlight came seven minutes from the end — with a booking from referee Ashford.

Wycombe, 4-0 winners at Bromley, threatened to make Loakes Park a killing ground for the Kent men, placed only above Corinthian Casuals in the

By
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table. Pullman looked as shaky as a pepper pot much of the time.

But Wycombe needed a touch more confidence in themselves.

Without injured captain John Delaney to urge and scold them, Wanderers not only failed to create an instant massacre, but even seemed in danger of losing command as half-time approached.

The story might have been very different however had Mr. Ashford not disallowed a Wycombe "goal" after 12 minutes.

Barry Baker's superbly controlled shot flashed through Bromley's crowded area, only for an infringement nearby to cancel it.

The disappointment triggered Wycombe's little mid-field man to deeds of skill and determination that pushed aside almost everything else in a drab game. But Baker's reward never came.

Seven minutes later he rammed a drive narrowly wide. And, nearer the interval, he went even closer when his effort beat

Pullman but lucklessly rebounded off a post.

While Ted Powell turned his attentions to defence, Baker kept things stable in the middle, from where he laid off some fine passes throughout.

Powell and Pritchard turned out for England in their 2-0 win over Scotland on Friday.

Bromley possessed precious little with which to strike back. But when they moved they were more convincing than their hosts. And Wycombe hopes of a hatful were waylaid for the first period at least.

Although the visitors' gave few worrying moments to John Maskell, Danny Lakey, a burly winger if only a shadow of his former self when with Hendon, brought a fine save from the 'keeper in the 38th minute.

Bromley drew hope from Wanderers' caution to make it tougher than should have been necessary.

However, Wycombe were soon leading the visiting defence a merry dance for part two, with Bernie Bremer lining up a 20 yarder which finished inches high of the bar.

The Blues increased their lead in the 66th minute when half the team combined and Baker supplied the final pass for Horseman. A stunning left-foot shot split Bromley's cover to make it 2-0.

That settled matters for another day while Sutton could only draw 1-1 at Hendon (not that that's a bad result!).

Geoff Anthony replaced Hutchinson, while Trevett took over from Lloyd as Wanderers sought out another goal.

Searle grew too eager however, and earned himself a 'booking' for showing dissent. His luck in fact was right out. With five minutes to play and a great chance before him, he blazed the ball over Bromley's cross-bar.

Still, by Saturday evening the Isthmian League bore heartening signs of Wanderers' re-gaining the title they last won in '57:

	P.	Pts.
Wycombe W.	34	57
Sutton Utd.	34	55
St. Albans	32	49

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell; K. Blunt, C. Gale; E. Powell, I. Rundle, B. Baker; B. Bremer, A. Horseman, K. Searle, L. Pritchard, J. Hutchinson (sub.: G. Anthony, 75th min.).

BROMLEY: Pullman; Rooth, C. Brown; Scott, Garston, Miles; Coppin, Lloyd (sub.: Trevett 80 mins.), J. Brown, Pettitt, Lakey.

Referee: Mr. R. S. Ashford (Tottenham).

Half-time: 1-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe—Searle (4), Horseman (66).